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Contact: Angela de Rocha at 202 224-5944

SENATE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION INCREASES COLORADO MASS TRANSIT FUNDING BY 164 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The transportation legislation passed by the Senate on a vote of 89 to 11 Tuesday authorizes a 164 percent increase in federal mass transit funding to Colorado over the next four years.

Senator Allard, chairman of the Senate Transportation and Housing Subcommittee, who has jurisdiction over transit programs and their funding, said that Colorado would receive more than \$409 million in total funding under the formulas approved today.

These formulas would provide Colorado with an additional \$159 million over and above the current funding level. The new funding will go to enhance existing programs and to help fund new programs that will be identified by state and local transit authorities.

'This is a substantial increase in mass-transit funding for Colorado," Senator Allard said. "It will have an enormous, positive impact, allowing us to complete a number of critical mass-transit projects in Colorado such as the Fast Tracks light rail project, the southeast light rail line component of T-REX, the Colorado Association of Transit Authorities projects, such as providing of bus services in rural areas, transportation options for the elderly and disabled, as well as a host of others," Senator Allard said.

"There is a great deal of pressure on rapidly growing states such as Colorado to expand their mass transportation programs and infrastructure," Senator Allard said. "This funding will help us to continue to address those needs."